

REMARKS

No new issues are raised in this Amendment After Final. The only claim amendment presented above is the cancellation of claims 1, 2, 14, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 32-34 which were directed to a powder. Accordingly, only method claims 9, 26, 27, 29-31 and 35 remain pending. The method claims were stated as being allowable in the FINAL Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance.

I. Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103(a)

In the FINAL Office Action dated January 26, 2010, claims 1, 2, 14, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,487,627 issued to Umemura et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,618,397 issued to Kano et al. and further in view of the 2001 publication “ESPI Metals Material Overview”.

The claims directed to a powder have been canceled. This includes claims 1, 2, 14, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25 and 32-34. Thus, this rejection is now moot. Removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

In the FINAL Office Action dated January 26, 2010, claims 9, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 and 35 are stated as being allowable.

The claims directed to a powder have been canceled, and only the allowed method claims remain pending. Accordingly, the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above claim cancellations, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, a favorable action on the merits is therefore requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment for entering this Amendment After Final to our deposit account no. 08-3040.

Respectfully submitted,
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